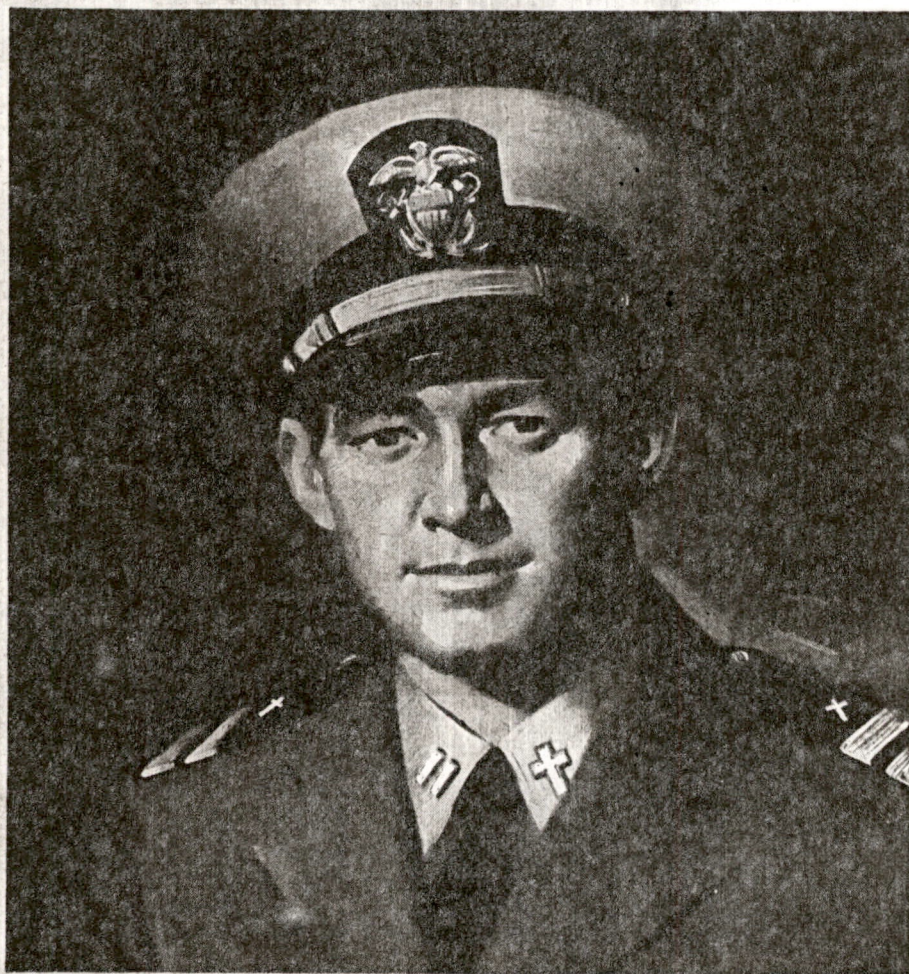


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* * *

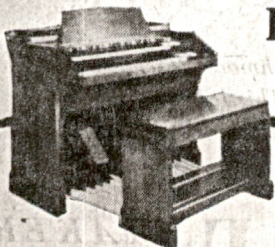
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Plants 1 and 4

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RELIGION

Yes or No?

Two possible mergers last week perturbed the deliberations of 450 delegates to the 156th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Plans for union with the Southern Presbyterian Church (the Presbyterian Church in the United States, which split with the Northerners in Civil War days) were distributed among the delegates at Chicago. Predictions were that the merger would go through at the end of the war.

But the long-standing question of Northern Presbyterian union with the Protestant Episcopal Church was another matter. Episcopalians had broached this idea back in 1937. Ever since, under the influence of such conservatives as Bishop William T. Manning of New York, Episcopalians had backed away from every specific merger plan.

Manifestly irked, the Presbyterian delegates last week resolved: "It would seem that after years of discussion some definite plan of union ought to be submitted." They expressed hope that "at the next general convention in 1946 the Episcopal church may commit itself to some specific proposal as evidence of the genuineness of its purpose."

Yes and No

War, taxes, the perennially vexatious Fundamentalist-Liberal question—these were the chief issues challenging 2,600 delegates to the Northern Baptist convention last week in Atlantic City:

¶ In a "surprise" appearance, the Rev. Daniel A. Poling, globe-trotting president of the World's Christian Endeavor Union, presented a 500-word resolution modifying the anti-war policy of the church.

It was approved. Then the delegates retrenched, and argument became so tumultuous that the meeting was adjourned to allow tempers to cool.

Next day, the convention passed an amendment rewording sections of the Poling resolution. The clause "God has a stake in this war" was stricken out and "We go forth as militists, as an army with banners" was rephrased to read: "We go forth as messengers of Christ."

A separate resolution reaffirmed the denomination's "position on war taken through the years." Net result: Northern Baptists go on record against war in general but make the present one a matter of conscience.

¶ The convention denounced the simplified income-tax bill's automatic 10 per cent deduction for contributions instead of the previous voluntary maximum of 15 per cent. Stamping it as essentially "inimical" to all churches and charitable organizations, they asked President Roosevelt not to sign it. The nub of the Baptist complaint was that an automatic deduction would remove taxpayers' in-

centive to make contributions. They added that most Baptist contributions come from members within the designated \$5,000-a-year group.

An opening admonitory address by their president, the Rev. Joseph C. Robbins, plus caucus maneuvering behind the scenes, averted a threatened missionary schism between fundamental and liberal factions. Fundamentalists, who last year established their own Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society, because they thought the official church board too liberal, were given equal representation on a special conciliation committee.

As president to succeed Dr. Robbins, the convention chose Mrs. Leslie E. Swain of Providence, R. I.—second woman in Northern Baptist history to hold the office. Mrs. Swain, a foreign missions leader, is also president of the Rhode Island Federation of Women's Church Societies.

European Church Wreckage

American and British churchmen last week set in motion a plan to rebuild the rubble-to-come of Continental Protestantism. This was the project conceived back in 1942, when the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America suggested that the World Council of Churches set up a Reconstruction Department to help repair war's damage to Protestant churches of Western Europe. Eventually the department will have two members from America, one from Great Britain, one from Switzerland, and one each from other countries with big Protestant populations.

The Church of England, through its primate the Archbishop of Canterbury, last week went ahead with its part of the program. At the convocation of Canterbury in Westminster Abbey, the prelate urged Englishmen to raise £1,000,000 as England's share. At the same time, church leaders talked with Foreign Secretary Eden and asked for arrangements to speed their work as soon as possible after the invasion.

In the United States (whose share has not yet been set), Dr. Henry Smith Leiper of the Federal Council outlined in the nondenominational weekly The Christian Century the project's seven points: (1) restoration of damaged church property; (2) reestablishment of disorganized church revenues; (3) expansion of church facilities to meet heavy relief needs; (4) restoration of youth organizations; (5) training of new pastors; (6) supplies of Christian literature; and (7) revival of missionary boards.

Within this framework, the Reconstruction Department will first send half a dozen representatives into the field to collect data on church needs. Then the department will contribute such aid as paying pastors salaries, sending seminary professors, bringing theological students to Britain, and supplying denominational hospitals with nurses and matrons.

Wires

WORKING AS A TEAM

MORE AND MORE, the armed services and industry are finding that you can accomplish most anything with a lot of little wires working as a team. 133 little ones, stranded and laid together, make a steel control cable, smaller than your little finger, that can pull a fighter out of a dive. 8,379 fine copper ones make a heavy electric welding cable so flexible it doesn't tire a ship welder's arm, working all day. Aluminum wires only .010 inch thick, 20 to the inch, make a feather-light screen filter that keeps dust out of bomber engines.

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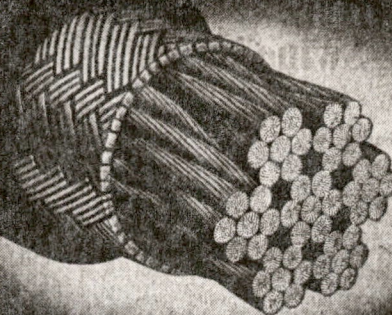
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